

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 MONTRE 01124 102203Z

63

ACTION VO-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 SCA-01 DHA-02 ORM-02 IO-13

CIAE-00 FBIE-00 INSE-00 NSAE-00 INR-07 /051 W

----- 076983

R 091840Z AUG 76

FM AMCONSUL MONTREAL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7852

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMMEMBASSY OTTAWA 2187

AMCONSUL TORONTO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MONTREAL 1124

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CVIS CA

SUBJECT: STATISTICS REGARDING VISAS ISSUED AND REFUSED TO
LEBANESE NATIONALS

REF: STATE 190983

1. MONTREAL STATISTICS REGARDING VISAS ISSUED AND REFUSED TO
LEBANESE FOLLOWS:

2. DURING JULY, MONTREAL ISSUED 144 NIVS TO LEBANESE
NATIONALS, INCLUDING 4 B-1, 107 B-2, 3 C-1, 1 F-1, AND 28 BCC.
DURING SAME MONTH REFUSED 22 NIVS, INCLUDING 19 B-2, 1 C-1,
1 F-1 AND 1 BCC. DURING SAME MONTH ISSUED 1 IV. NO IV RE-
FUSALS. COMMENTS: OURLINE NIV OFFICERS ESTIMATE THAT OF
TOTAL LEBANESE NIV APPLICANTS, ABOUT 75 PERCENT ARE LANDED
IMMIGRANTS HERE OR ELSEWHERE OUTSIDE LEBANON, 10 PERCENT ARE IN
CANADA IN CONTINUING STUDENT STATUS, AND 15 PERCENT ARE RECENT
ARRIVALS WHO MIGHT BE PRESUMED TO HAVE FLED RECENT LEBANESE
SITUATION. LINE OFFICERS RECALL VERY HIGH PERCENTAGE OF
REFUSALS TO RECENT ARRIVALS, PERHAPS AS HIGH AS 90 PERCENT.

3. STATISTICS FOR FIRST SEVEN MONTHS ARE:

UAAEMNIV REFUSALS NIV ISSUANCES IV ISSUANCES IV REFUSALS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 MONTRE 01124 102203Z

JAN 5 54 0 0

FEB	8	31	0	0
MAR	10	21	0	0
APR	18	43	0	0
MAY	24	72	0	1
JUNE	14	119	0	0
JULY	22	144	0	1
TOTAL	101	484	0	2

4. IT IS LESS EASY TO PROVIDE ANSWER TO PARAGRAPH 2 OF REFTEL. WE HAVE RECEIVED REMARKEDLY FEW INQUIRIES REGARDING IMMIGRATION OR REFUGEE STQUTUS FROM LEBANESE. IMMIGRATION INFORMATION CLERKS RECALL ONLY APPROXIMATELY 5 OR 6 INQUIRIES REGARDING IMMIGRATION FROM LEBANESE DURING JULY, BUT ALL OF THESE WERE EITHER LANDED IMMIGRANTS OR NATURALIZED CANADIAN CITIZENS. WE RECALL ONLY ONE SPECIFIC INQUIRY REGARDING REFUGEE STATUS. AS NOTED ABOVE, WE HAVE BEEN REFUSING LEBANESE NIV APPLICANTS, AND MOST REFUSALS ARE FROM NEWLY ARRIVED LEBANESE.

5. DURING PAST FEW DAYS HAVE MADE CASUAL INQUIRIES OF SEVERAL CONTACTS RE LEBANESE COMMUNITY. ROMAN CATHOLIC PRIEST, WHO HAS TAKEN GREAT INTEREST IN ASSISTING NEW LEBANESE ARRIVALS, CHRTISTIAN AND MOSLEM ALIKE, ESTIMATES APPROXIMATELY 3000 LEBANESE IN MONTREAL AS RESULY STRIFE. MOST HAVE BEEN EASILY PLACED IN JOBS. CANADIAN IMMIGRATION AUTHORITIES HAVE BEEN VERY LIBERAL. THOSE ARRIVING PRIOR JUNE 21, 1976, BEING FACILITATED FOR LANDED IMMIGRANT STATUS, WHILE LATER ARRIVALS ARE RECEIVING SUCH STATUS ONLY IF RELATED TO CANADIANS. LATER GROUP, HOWEVER, BEING GRANTED WORK PERMITS AND NOT REPEAT NOT FORCED TO DEPART. SOCIAL WELFARE AUTHORITIES GRANTING FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO THOSE FEW LEBANESE UNABLE WORK. SCHOOLS HAVE PROVIDED DELAYED TUITION PLANS FOR STUDENTS. SOURCE BELIEVES THAT MOST WILL DECIDE TO STAY, EXCLUDING THOSE WITH SUBSTANTIAL WEALTH IN LEBANESE BANKS OR WITH LARGE PROPERTY INTERESTS.

6. SOURCE IN LEBANESE CONSULATE GENERAL ESTIMATE TOTAL NUMBER OF LEBANESE IN CANADA FLEEING RECENT EVENTS "APPROACHING 10,000", WITH BETWEEN 2500 AND 3000 IN MONTREAL AREA. HE CONFIRM THAT THIS GROUP NOT EXPERIENCING DIFFICULTIES WITH CANADIAN AUTHORITIES WHO ARE TREATING THEM WITH GREAT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 MONTRE 01124 102203Z

LIBERALITY. LOCAL COMMUNITY OF SOME 30,000 LEBANESE EXPATRIATES ABSORBING THIS NEW SOURCE OF LABOR WITH EASE. CONTACT COMMENTED THAT MANY NEW ARRIVALS HAVE EXPRESSED REGRET THAT US, AS "TRADITIONALLY FRIENDLY NATION" HAS NOT WELCOMED THEM IN SAME MANNER AS CANADA. IT APPEARS EVIDENT, HOWEVER, THAT THEIR MATERIAL WANTS ARE BEING WELL TAKEN CARE OF AND WHATEVER REGRETS THEY MAY HAVE RE US POLICY HAS NOT TRANSLATED ITSELF INTO INQUIRIES AT OUR OFFICE. OUR CONTACT OPINED THAT PERHAPS

ONLY 10 PERCENT TO 15 PERCENT OF NEW ARRIVALS WILL SEEK RETURN TO LEBANON, AND THIS PERCENTAGE WILL DECREASE THE LONGER THEY REMAIN IN CANADA.

7. ONE INTERESTING SIDELIGHT CAME FROM HARDLINING MARONITE, HIMSELF A RECENT ARRIVAL IN MONTREAL. THIS SOURCE, WELL KNOWN TO US AS HUSBAND OF EX-AMEMBASSY BEIRUT FSL, VOLUNTEERED HOPE THAT THERE WOULD BE NO MOVEMENT OF LEBANESE TO THE US. HE AND SEVERAL ASSOCIATES ARE IN PROCESS URGING NEW CHRISTIAN ARRIVALS (WHO CONSTITUTE A VAST MAJORITY OF ARRIVALS HERE) TO RETURN TO LEBANON TO BEAR ARMS FOR CHRISTIAN LEBANON. SOURCE UNABLE TO EXPLAIN WHY HE HAS NOT ELECTED TO JOIN THEM.

8. HAVE ATTEMPTED CONFIRM INFORMATION RE GOC TREATMENT OF LEBANESE FROM IMMIGRATION AUTHORITIES HERE. SEPTTEL FOLLOWS WHEN WE HAVE RESPONSE.

9. IN SUMMARY, NEWLY ARRIVED LEBANESE ARE BEING WELCOMED BY GOC AND ARE NOT SUFFERING FINANCIALLY. MANY WOULD, OF COURSE, WELCOME OPPORTUNITY TO SETTLE IN THE US, BUT HAVE NOT BEAT A PATH TO OUR DOOR INQUIRING ABOUT IMMIGRATION OR REFUGEE STATUS. WE CONCUR IN POINTS (A) AND (B) OF UNHCR ASSESSMENT. HOWEVER, POINT (C) DOES NOT APPEAR TO APPLY AT LEAST TO LEBANESE IN MONTREAL AREA, PERHAPS IN VIEW OF THE EASE WITH WHICH THEY ARE BEING ABSORBED BY LARGE LEBANESE COMMUNITY.
HARPER

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: BoyleJA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976MONTRE01124
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760308-0333
From: MONTREAL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760872/aaaackud.tel
Line Count: 141
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION VO
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 190983
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: BoyleJA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <13 APR 2004 by ellisoob>; APPROVED <03 AUG 2004 by BoyleJA>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: STATISTICS REGARDING VISAS ISSUED AND REFUSED TO LEBANESE NATIONALS
TAGS: CVIS, CA
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006